(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any transparency in the schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total outcome of these schemes, State-wise, especially in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 7883 piped water schemes have been completed in Andhra Pradesh and handed over to Gram Panchayats for operation and maintenance during the last three years. Of these, 3290 were handed over in 2006-07, 3205 in 2007-08 and 1388 in 2008-09.

(c) and (d) For greater transparency, Gram Panchayats are involved in every stage of the scheme such as pre-planning, planning and execution of the schemes.

(e) The State has a total of 47,839 piped water schemes as on 01.04.2009. 1113 such schemes in the East Godavari District and 2002 schemes in West Godavari District have been handed over to Gram Panchayats in the last three years.

Wages to women workers under NREGS

3487. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to pay equal wages to women for equal work under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), across the country as a measure for empowering women;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) Under NREGA, equal wages are payable to men and women workers. Para 34 of Schedule-II of the Act provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Roads under NREGS in SC/ST areas in Andhra Pradesh

3488. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to take up roads under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the SC/ST inhabited areas in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time set to complete these projects; and

(d) if not, by when such proposals will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (d) NREGA applies to the rural areas of the country irrespective of their inhabitants. 200 districts of the country, including 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh (AP) were covered under NREGA in the first phase from 2.2.2006; 130 districts including 6 districts of AP were added in the second phase during 2007-08 and all the remaining districts which included 3 districts of AP were covered under the Act from 1.4.2008. Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access is a permissible activity under the Act. Total number of rural connectivity works taken up under NREGA in the country and in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Total rural connectivity works taken up in the country	Total rural connectivity works taken up in Andhra Pradesh
2006-07	180049	501
2007-08	308091	5914
2008-09	491044	19923

Incomplete works in a financial year spill over to the next financial year for providing employment to the household who demand for employment under NREGA.

Target for rural water supply

†3489. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages deprived of drinking water facility in the country as on March, 2009;

(b) whether Government plans to complete the target of providing drinking water/rural water supply to all villages by the year 2011;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) the number of villages where rural water supply programme will be implemented in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the expenditure to be incurred per year thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA): (a) to (c) Under Bharat Nirman, of which rural drinking water is one of the components and conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure, Government of India had set a target of coverage of 55,067 uncovered habitations and 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and addressing 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations.

The targets till 2011 have been fixed on the basis of progress reported by each State and are as follows:—

(i) Against 55,067 uncovered habitations to be covered during the Bharat Nirman period, 54,433 habitations have been covered by June, 2009. The remaining habitations are proposed to be covered by 2011.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.